THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, December 15, 1806.

LETTER *from a* HERETOFORE RICH MAN.

THERE are people who are born magistrates, others warriors; as to me, I possessed a thousand a year, I was used to it; I was born so, and I was born for it. I thought my fortune and myself were to remain inseparable. The revolution in France happened, my thousand a year left me, and without having stirred a step, as if the earth had revolved under my feet, I found myself out of my place, and without knowing how to get into it again. For it must not be imagined, that when one has lost a thousand a year, one has only to walk on foot, to wear shabby clothes, to dine poorly, or not at all; one must also change one's tone, one's manners, and even the turn of one's phrases.

This discovery, which I immediately made, afflicted me so much, that I resolved to support every thing in order to conceal my situation, rather than thus to sacrifice what remained the dearest to me. I thought that by thus conducting myself, I might still retain the same manners; but after a short time, finding myself amongst rich people, I was so humbled by the difference which, without my perceiving it, was established between them and me, that at the moment I was ready to renounce all society. Afterwards I said to myself, well, I have mistaken the matter, but I shall at least learn how one is to conduct one's self after having lost a thousand a year, and I reasoned thus; the rich are in general so overbearing on account of their riches, that poverty ought necessarily to attract esteem; and as it would be cowardly to blush at it, true courage must consist in being proud of it. I therefore prepared myself to glory in having lost a thousand a year. Heaven knows, however, that I had myself done nothing towards it.

From that time, I ceased not to repeat that I was poor; I told it to every one; I informed those who did not ask me of my forlorn situation; and when I was questioned on the subject, I appeared almost offended at its not being known. Was dress the subject of conversation, I directly displayed my worn out clothes, and I carefully avoided owning I had another suit. On days of ceremony I took particular care to wear my worst hat. The rich were become the objects of my disdain, and luxury that of my censure. On seeing two candles lighted, I called out shame; and I would have pardoned the possessors of new fortunes, if, after having seized on the money of others, they had not had the impudence to spend it. I paid a visit one day to one of my female relations who had retained her fortune, and was an agreeable woman, always attentive not to shock the ideas or opinions of others. She was surrounded with the rich and the gay; they were talking of their pleasures. I began to display my poverty, and they became silent; I continued, and they all went away. I expatiated on the indecency of the luxury which was just beginning to revive; and my cousin, who was just ready to go out, ordered her carriage to be put up; and as I had found fault with the delicacy of those who could not stir a step without a carriage, she thought herself obliged to walk. We were caught in a shower of rain; we waited an hour and a half under a shed; in the mean time a hackney coach passed by, and my cousin saying she had no money, I began to rally her on her being so fashionable as not to wear pockets. At last the rain ceased, but the streets were overflowed, the lady slipt at every step, and once she fell down so suddenly that I could only assist her to get up again. I reconducted her home, wet to the skin.

The next day I called at her house; the porter said, "Madam has got a violent cold; she has made a list, see whether you are on it." I looked and saw—"All the Derivals except Derival G." (which is my name.) "Are you on it?" asked the porter. "Yes," said I, "I am"; and I ran away, that he might not see in what manner I was mentioned.

I am again in the wrong, said I, in going home; I thought to be well received, and the doors are shut against me. After reflecting on these matters, in a few days I learnt that by means of an unexpected inheritance, my fortune was pretty nearly replaced on the footing it was at first. After the first emotions of joy, I said to myself, I shall then never know how a man is to conduct himself after having lost a thousand a year; but I was for the third time in an error. It is only a week since I am become rich again, and I feel myself perfectly instructed in the duties of the poor. From which I made this reflection—that our relative knowledge is never brought home to our actual position; and that such a one, for example, who whilst under the

the authority of his parents, has deeply considered the duties of parents to their children, must necessarily be married, and have children, if he wishes to form a precise idea of the duties of children towards their parents.

LETTER *from a* YOUNG LADY,

ON HER FIRST VISIT IN LONDON, TO HER FRIEND IN CORNWALL.

PRAY do not be angry with me, dearest Julia, for not fulfilling my promise of writing to you immediately on my arrival in this charming city. Could you but know how entirely every hour has been occupied, even from the very moment of my being housed at my uncle's, you would, I am sure, readily make for me that excuse which I now solicit. I am in such a chaos of delightful wonder at all I see and hear, that my letter will be but a desultory compound of disjointed matter.

I shall pass over briefly the kind reception with which I was welcomed by my good uncle and aunt, and hasten to tell you that cousin Mary is grown a very handsome, or what is here termed a very stylish elegant girl; and cousin John is the very pink of the *beau-monde*—with his short-waisted waistcoat, long-waisted small-clothes, and cravat up to his ears.

But O, my dear Julia! could you but see my cousin Mary's wardrobe! Positively I have not a gown I can wear! And, notwithstanding all the care my dear good mamma took that I should appear like other people, I literally am like nobody.

Mary amused herself for a full hour at the unpacking of my portmanteau, and display of its contents. "Why, dear Coz! here's actually enough in this gown to make an alderman's robe! Mercy on me! a double dimity petticoat! and, as I live, a thick lutestring pelice, that will stand alone! What sort of a figure, my dear soul, do you intend to exhibit? While all here is clad in mist, *à-la-Grecian*, you will step forth amongst us in your ponderous costume, like the ghost of my grandmother, and frighten us out of our wits!" Thus she ran on in good-natured ridicule of my poor paraphernalia; and then, without giving me time to be mortified, she rang for her maid; and, in the same sportive humour, said, "Now, Jones, set your best inventions to work, and, quick as thought, transfer this immense article of my pretty cousin's, yeleped a gown! into a frock like that which came yesterday from Madame de Bruyn's; and remember, it must positively be finished by seven in the evening; and Monsieur Videau be here by six.

" My dear," she added, turning to me, " your hair is as rude and uncultivated as the wilds of America."

I wont detain you with the grave remonstrances used by me on this occasion; nor tell you how severely my dear mamma frowned, in vision, as Jones slashed my new muslin piecemeal, to render it obedient to the reigning laws of taste and fashion. But this must say, that viewing me at ten in the morning, with my little brown riding-habit, and small beaver hat, with gold band; in the evening, at eight, you would not have known me, I " bore my honours so thick upon me." My frock was made with a short train, which I wore over a blush-coloured sarsnet slip; it was tied all the way up behind, with small bows of narrow white satin riband. A drawn tucker of plain net lace attached to the front of the slip, met the bosom of the frock, which was rounded sharp at the corners, and edged with white beads. The shoulder-strap was so narrow, and the back so low, as to leave rather more of my person exposed than was consistent with my notions of delicacy; but fashion here, I find, is entirely despotic! My hair—oh! how it was compressed! The hind part, which you know is very long, was braided into four compartments, and brought from the nape of my neck round the temple on one side, and across the head on the other, where loose curls flowed beneath, to meet my eyebrow. It was fastened with a steel comb behind; and on the adverse side of the braids, was a half wreath (very full) of Persian roses. I wore on my neck a gold elastic chain, fastened with a pearl brooch; ear-rings and bracelets to correspond. These were a present from my uncle. My shoes and gloves were of white kid.

With you, my dear friend, I use no disguise; and, therefore, will freely say, that I did not think it possible I could have looked so well. Cousin John complimented me much on my metamorphose; and tells me, that when I get rid of my *mauvaise-honte*, he shall " sport me" ('tis an odd term,) at the opera.

You may expect, in all my letters, a description of all that is new and most elegant in female attire. My uncle and aunt, you know, are very rich; they keep the first company; and are both so immoderately fond of their daughter, as to indulge her in every fashionable accomplishment, and tasteful appendage; so that I shall be able to send you the first information. At present, I can only spare time to give you an account of my cousin Mary's last superb dress, together with a few general hints; for the town is beginning to fill, and we have a dinner-party to-day, and go to Covent-Garden in the evening.

But, to this costume;—It is a robe of undressed crape, made to flow loose from the back, somewhat like the old *negligée* of our mothers. It is bordered all round with heart's-ease, in foil,

at

at the edge of which is a most delicate silver fringe; from each shoulder, and round the back, where it is deepest, is an erect plaiting of Vandyke lace.

The under dress is formed of India muslin, interwoven with silver thread, in small checks; and the bosom, which is shaded with a simple fold of the same, is terminated with an amethyst brooch at each corner. Her necklace and bracelets are of pearl; fastened with an amethyst stand; her ear-rings to correspond; and the largest I ever saw, secured an armlet formed of plaited hair and gold, most beautifully executed. Her shoes were of white satin, her gloves of white kid, with the bracelet on the outside. Her hair was in braids round the temples; over which, and on the crown of the head, fell loose and glossy curls; and in the midst of these, in front, glittered the finest diamond star. In her bosom was a *bouquet*, formed of the damask rose, and double blossomed myrtle. Mary is very handsome, and, with these tasteful auxiliaries, she looked like nothing mortal. You must lay by your straw hat entirely—they are both unseasonable, and unfashionable. Do not purchase velvet shoes, as you intended. Jean, kid, or satin, are those chosen by the *élégantes* of the metropolis.

I enclose you a pattern of my new pelice—it is of sarsnet, of the new cardinal form. My bonnet is of the same, made in a small poke, and is trimmed with the finest narrow swansdown. Shawls are now too general to be held in genteel estimation; they are simply worn as an occasional wrap at the theatres, or in passing from the house to the carriage. The swansdown opera tippets are much worn in public; but the long tippet of dark fur, formerly so general, is now never seen on a female who has any pretensions to taste.

Adieu, dear Julia!—expect to hear again from me very soon; and, whether in London or Cornwall, believe me still

Your

ELIZA.

OCCASIONAL ESSAYS.

No. VII.

Mr. Editor,

IN my last I touched on false pretensions to wisdom, and learning; and in this I shall further add, that pretenders of every denomination are injurious to society: they may be considered as pebbles in the way, obstructing the path of *real* genius, over which she sometimes stumbles, but cannot fall.

This brings to my remembrance an anecdote I once read, which though I cannot give it in language verbatim, was to this effect:

A nobleman sending for a certain painter (renowned for blowing the trumpet of his own fame) to consult him in his professional line, addressed him with—

"Mr. Crayon, here is a large space. I should like to have it filled with a good picture; and will leave the subject to the exertion of your own fancy."

"Your lordship does me honour. What think you, my lord, of the judgment of Solomon?"

"A very happy idea; and as the subject will admit of a large group of figures, the picture will look rich and striking, and give a splendid finish to the room."

This point being settled, they adjourned to the library.

"As I have *busts* of our most celebrated poets, I should like, Mr. Crayon, some pretty story, comprised in a small piece over this chimney?"

The painter, consulting only his own ability, replied, "I do not think, my lord, you can have any thing better than the judgment of Solomon?"

His lordship looked surprised, which Crayon observing—

"I mean, my lord, a *little* judgment of Solomon, just big enough to *fit the pannel*."

As the figures were to be reduced, after some altercation, his lordship complaisantly complied. He then shewed him a ceiling he was about to embellish. When lo! this bright genius of a painter, was for the *judgment of Solomon* there again. His lordship bit his lip, but being perfectly a well-bred man, suppressed his indignation, and only said he should like a gayer subject.

Do not you think, Mr. Crayon, the judgment of *Paris* would produce a better effect? Or what say you to a lively story from Ovid's Metamorphoses?"

"Why, my lord, you shall have the judgment of Paris, or any metamorphose you please; but if *I* paint it, it will be so metamorphosed into the judgment of Solomon, that it will be impossible to mistake it for any thing else."

I cannot take leave of pretenders, without some remarks on your pretenders to *honesty*. Some have pretended to loyalty and patriotism, and yet have practised only flattery and falsehood.

In days of yore, a wager was laid, that if great men, high in office, spoke openly what they knew, and declared their sentiments freely, they would not keep in place even for a fortnight: but as it could not be proved, that any of this description had tried the experiment for so long a time, the wager could not be decided.

The trader honestly takes of inexperience, ten per cent more than the article is worth, and swears he is a loser by the bargain.

Our *peoples* too, are very *conscientious* men. "I must have fifty per cent. you know, Jacob; I borrow the monies of my broder, at five per cent. myshelf. And hish lordship musht pay de difference of *stocks*, and take de *pictures* and de *vatches*. He will lose nothing by de vatches, he may give dem de pretty ladies; I vas always a friend to de pretty ladies. But tell him I do not get shixpence by de business.

But the worst of pretenders is a *religious* one. Observe, Mr. Editor, I am not so illiberal as to apply the lash to any particular *sect*; for sorry am I to say there are hypocrites in all. Religion, in her own native simplicity, is truly lovely. She attracts admiration, charms the soul by precept, and, in accompanying us through life, heals, by her softening balm, the poignant wounds of affliction. But there are a set of ignorant teachers, of a particular *sect*, who sometimes appear deserving the rod of correction from an unsparing hand, and to such alone the scourge is intended. *Lock-up* had quitted the honourable profession of bailiff's follower, to turn methodist preacher, the light of the new birth having opened his eyes to his own interest, and shewed that fewer scruples were admitted in a court of *conscience* than a court of law; and that taking care of the body was not so lucrative a post, as taking care of the soul. Writs there, not being *returnable*, nor any danger of a *body rule*. Lock-up, in an extempore harangue, gave a congregation, collected in an open field, a discourse from the following text.

"The labourer is worthy of his hire."

Dearly beloved!

The ministers of the gospel are labourers in the full extent of the word; for we labour to procure a congregation, and we labour to *take you in*.

We labour hard also, to blind reason, throwing a dab of the new faith over her eyes, as the scavenger throws mud into the dirt cart.

If our brother be sick, we will pray for him, it costs us nothing; but if he is poor, he must pray for himself; we have nothing to do with temporal affairs. If he is ruined by a lawsuit, let him apply for comfort to the gentlemen of Westminster-Hall; we labour not for the law, but the gospel. We contend, not for the spirit of litigation, but *contribution*.

If you be rich, your backslidings shall find grace in our prayers and spiritual songs, but if you are poor, and cannot pay your subscriptions, you shall be expelled the tabernacle without mercy, and be turned over to the devil and his imps, 'till he scourge and whip you into better manners. We ask but for the corn, the wine, the oil, the loaves and the fishes; we labour hard for them, and "*the labourer is worthy of his hire.*" Put money in the plate, and we will have a *love feast* in all charity:

charity: and I command you to bring your wives, and your daughters, your maid servants, and young widows, and all who long and thirst after the new birth; we will receive them, and they shall be our—*dearly beloved*. The Jews were a stiff-necked people, yet they gave a tenth of their possessions to their rabbies. O I wish you were all Jews!—Nay the very heathens themselves, allow their idolatrous pastors fixt salaries. O that the spirit would fill you with grace, to become all heathens! Any thing, so you had a *form*. I love a form in religion; it is the match to burning tinder, by which thieves are caught in the dark. Put money in the plate, or you shall be made matches to the devil's tinder-box, who is more than a match for you all: for I myself will appear before him, denouncing curses against you.

But an honest tar being present, cut short this elegant harangue with—

"Hilloah! avast heaving there. Belay, belay; why brother, you seem to have got your *jawing* tacks aboard? Blood-an-ouns! half the ship's crew here hang an a—se! Take in a reef in your *slack* d'ye see; for unless you broach better lingo, I will lay you athwart the weather bow, grapple your head rails, and knock your jib boom to shatters, in a shake. Oh ho! you are taken all aback, are you? But douse that signal of distress you have hoisted, and pilot us into safer moorings. You will appear at the devil's court-martial? Why, who the devil doubts it? The land's right a-head, old Shark, and you are now steering pump for the port. Here is a land-lubberly thief! Like his brother pick-pockets at the Old Bailey, when he can run his riggs no longer, will turn *king's evidence*, and hang his shipmates, to save his own bacon!"

Now this honest tar professed little or no religion; but he would share his purse with his friend, venture his life for his king and country, and roar out "*Rule Britannia*" to the music of her guns: swearing he would spill the last drop of his blood in defence of Old England! whilst a plank of her oak swam on the salt sea: but as to praying, and all that palaver, it was not his business; government kept a parson on duty, to pray for him, and let him look out who had the watch. "Star-bowlings*, a hoy! And see who will turn out first upon deck. I do my duty, and keep watch, and the parson shall do his."

But there existed an active principle of virtue in his benevolent heart, that whether spurred by true religion, (at least philanthrophy), or not, shall be submitted to the reader.

Heading

* Star, or lar-bowlings, mean the ſtarboard, and larboard, or 1ſt and 2d four hours watch. The dog watch is only two hours.

Heading a pressgang on Tower-hill, our brave lieutenant got a small scratch on the pate, which obliged him to apply to Doctor Blister to get a cover to fit it. He there met a poor distressed female, who had just parted with her all, to raise a physician's fee, her dear husband lying at the point of death. Our noble tar, forgetting his broken head, followed the woman into the street, obtained her address, and perceiving, from her account, that nourishment would prove the best restorative, got under weigh in a jiffey, and obtained from his agent a box of pills, more efficacious than any other nostrum could have produced. These he sent to the sick stranger, with this true seaman-like label.

"I have sent you, brother, these here twenty georgies; unreave one, occasionally 'till the breeze abates, and I warrant you weather the gale, without danger of bulging on the rocks of Galen, or being run alongside, and boarded by any of his loplolly crew."

Here the *heart* spoke; and the man who feels not another's woes, feels not, as he ought, his own happiness, nor that dignity the hand of his Creator stampt on his existence, when he gave him birth.

PARISIAN FASHIONS.

A Riding Dress.

A Riding coat of fine broad cloth, the colour a dark lavender blossom; a high rolled collar, lappelled front, and deep cape, *a la pelerine*; a broad belt secured in front with a clasp of steel; a high ruff of double plaited muslin, sloped to a point at the bottom. Chapeau of amber coloured velvet, band of the same formed in leaves. Hair in close curls; York tan gloves; high shoes of lavender blossomed kid, tied with amber coloured bows.

Evening Dress.

A spotted muslin round dress, a walking length, with a light border of needle-work at the bottom. A cambric petticoat with one row of open hemming at the feet; long waist, plain in front, drawn back; and full sleeves, gathered into a band of needle-work, corresponding with the bottom of the dress, and terminated with a frill of narrow lace; a deep fall of lace with scollopped edge, put full round the neck; a short sash of pink riband, simply tied behind. The cap *a-la-rustique*, formed of alternative waves of pink and white velvet, finished at the edge with a roll of the same; a full bunch of white roses in front, inclining to the right side, and projecting over the eye-brow.

The hair cropped close behind, and loosely curled in front; shoes of pink kid, with white trimming; Limerick or York tan gloves.

GENTLEMEN's DRESSES.

Evening Dress.

For this dress are used the various shades of dark chocolate, brown, and olive coats, which are made in much the same manner as they were last month, both in regard to the collar and lapel; but the waist is somewhat lengthened, and the hip buttons are rather farther apart than they were at that time. The length of the coat remains the same, and the buttons are either covered with the same cloth as the coat, or are formed of basket-worked twist to match. Velvet collars are still worn. White Marseilles quilting waistcoats continue to be the only fashionable wear with coloured clothes. The breeches are much as before. They are made of the various shades of light drab colours; they descend considerably below the knee, and are there tied with a silk string. Silk stockings of the natural colour are more prevalent than those of pink.

Morning Dress.

The morning coats are generally worn of the same colours and make as those of the evening; and are distinguished from them only by having a plated button, which is now worn much larger than it was formerly. But the most gentlemanly dress is a single-breasted coat, buttoning comfortably over the body, and cut away to shew the breeches. The most genteel colours, are darkish green mixtures, or nut-coloured mixtures, coats of which are equally fashionable, with or without a black velvet collar. Plain plated buttons are exclusively worn on these coats. The coat itself is about two inches shorter than the evening coat, and has no pocket flaps at the sides. The waistcoats for this dress are almost exclusively of striped toilinets, which are worn in rather broader stripes than formerly was the fashion; and the stripe is now beginning to be perpendicular with the body, instead of horizontal. The breeches are made of drab-coloured milled kerseymeres, with gilt buttons at the knees, and made sufficiently long to come into the whole boot; but the most general dress are pantaloons of much the same colours as the breeches. They are frequently made of ribbed kerseymeres, and are worn with Hessian boots.

FASHIONS

FASHIONS *for* DECEMBER.

LADIES' DRESSES.

Walking Dress.

PLAIN cambric muslin gown, a walking length, made high in the neck, with double plaited frills of fine India muslin; and long sleeves embroidered at the wrist. A Russian mantle without a seam, composed of pale fawn-coloured kerseymere, trimmed either with Turkish riband, fur, or swansdown; these mantles are made short or long, according to the taste of the wearer, and are composed of cloths, kerseymeres, or velvets, with two rows of narrow borders laid on the outsides, composed of shaded orange, or yellow coloured silk, or velvet, which produce the effect of gold bordering, and look extremely elegant; it has a square standing collar, and is made with sharp lappels, flows open before, and exhibits a demi-waist, or high front of the same, which sits close to the form, and meets the foil at the throat, where it is bordered to correspond with the mantle. A turban hat of the same material, with full yeoman crown, trimmed as the mantle. The hair in loose curls, confined with a narrow band. Large gold ear-rings, of the hoop form; leather gloves, and high shoes of fawn-coloured jean.

Full Dress.

A round dress of white satin, vandyked at the bottom in spots of morone foil. A demi-robe of Italian crape, sitting close to the form in front, and intermingling with the dress behind, commencing in a full drapery on the left shoulder, where it is confined at regular distances, with small bands of pearl 'till it reaches the bottom of the dress on the opposite side, where it terminates. A wrap sleeve, formed of lace, to meet a full satin top; bound front of white satin, confined in the centre of the bosom with a diamond brooch, ear-rings, &c. to correspond. The bosom shaded with a lace tucker, the same as the trimming of the sleeves. The hair in plain bands on the forehead, with a few close curls in the centre, and others of a cork-screw form falling towards the left ear; a coronet comb of gold, secures the hair behind, and partly confines a small half square of morone muslin, spotted with gold. Shoes of morone satin, gloves of French kid, fan of morone crape, with devices in gold.

BUENOS AYRES.

THIS fertile province is remarkable for two kinds of wild animals, wild oxen, and wild dogs.

The number of wild oxen here is so great, that every year 100,000 are killed solely for the sake of their hides. About twenty hunters on horseback proceed to the spots where these animals are known to herd, having in their hands a long stick, shod with iron, very sharp, with which they strike the ox that they pursue, on one of the hind legs, and they make the blow so adroitly, that they almost always cut the sinews in two above the joint. The animal soon afterwards falls, and cannot rise again. The hunters instead of stopping, pursue the other oxen at full gallop, with their reins loose, striking in the same manner all which they overtake; thus eighteen or twenty men will with ease fell 7 or 800 oxen in one hour. When they are tired of this exercise, they dismount to rest, and afterwards, without danger, knock on the head the oxen which they have wounded. After taking the skin, and sometimes the tongue and suet, they leave the rest for the birds of prey.

Wild dogs have descended from some of the domestic kinds that have formerly gone astray, and have multiplied in an excessive degree in the countries near Buenos Ayres. They live under ground, in holes, which may be easily discovered by the quantity of bones heaped round them. It may be with propriety supposed, that some time or another, when the wild oxen are destroyed, so that the dogs cannot obtain them, they will fall upon men. One of the governors of Buenos Ayres thought this subject so well worth his attention, that he sent some soldiers to destroy the wild dogs, and they killed a great number of them with their muskets. But on their return, they were insulted by the women and children of the town, who are very insolent; they called them *mataperros*, which means dog-killers; whence it has happened, that the men, disheartened by a false shame, have never returned to that kind of hunting.

Method to prevent the Freezing of Water in the Pipes.

To the Editor,

Sir,

THE freezing of the water in the pipes often proves to many families a serious inconvenience, which, however, from my own experience, I conceive they might in most cases prevent by a moderate share of attention, and at a trifling expense.

In the main pipes, I understand that the water seldom or never freezes: the freezing, therefore, generally, if not always, takes place in the small branches which run from the main to each house. Even of these I believe that the part which is lodged in the ground is secure from frost, except where the

pipe

pipe lies very near the surface. If this supposition be true, as I have reason to think it is, the whole mischief happens within the space between the cistern-cock and the hole in the wall where the leaden pipe first enters the premises; and the cause of it is, that, after the cock has been stopped, a certain quantity of water remains stagnant in the cold leaden pipe, which, in an open area, or coal-vault, will naturally soon freeze, in severe weather.

To prevent that evil, the remedy is as obvious, as this axiom is true, that where no water is, no water can freeze. Let no water remain stagnant in the pipe, and you are safe. Fix a small cock to the pipe, as near to the main as you possibly can; add another cock in every part within your premises where the pipe makes a bend downward. Let your servant watch when the water is turned off from the main; then immediately open those different cocks to draw off the small quantity of water remaining in the leaden pipe, and suffer them to remain open until it be drained perfectly dry. By this simple precaution I have, during five winters, regularly secured to myself a plentiful supply of water, though my neighbours, within that period, were occasionally frozen up.

If any person objects to the expence of two or three extra-cocks, he may avoid it, and yet (I suppose) accomplish the desired object tolerably well, by simply boring holes in the proper parts of the pipe, which he may stop with small corks or wooden pegs.

Much good may also be done by the plumber in laying the pipe in the first instance. I would recommend that, within the premises, it be no where suffered to run horizontally; but that, from the spot where it first enters, it be sloped a little up or down, according to circumstances; and that, in its further progress to the cistern, it be raised and lowered at convenient distances, so that the draining-cocks may be few in number, and easily accessible. It would moreover be advisable, when once the pipe is properly laid, to secure it within a strong wooden case, as a guard against various accidents, by which it might be so bent as to form a lodgment for stagnant water to freeze in.

And, as the water often continues in the main for some time after the cistern-cock has been stopped, and there may be danger, during very severe weather, of having the now dormant water frozen in the pipe in the area before the proper moment for the servant to open the draining-cocks—it would not be amiss to protect that part of the pipe with a thick coating of pitch, or pitch and rosin—over that, rope, or many-fold canvas—and again pitch, with a wooden case over all.

I am, Sir, your constant reader,

Islington. J. CAREY.

Cheap

Cheap Method of Destroying Rats and Mice; by Dr. Taylor, Secretary to the Society for Encouragement of Arts, &c.

IN or near the places frequented by these vermin, place upon a plate or tile, one or two spoonfuls of dry oatmeal; lay it thin, and press it flat, that you may more easily know what is taken away; the rats, if not interrupted, will come regularly to feed there. Supply them thus with fresh oatmeal for two or three days; then to about ten spoonfuls of dry oatmeal, add three drops of oil of anniseed, and having stirred the mixture well together, feed them with this for two or three days more; then for one day give them only half the quantity they have usually eaten of this scented oatmeal, and the next day place the following mixture—To four ounces of dry oatmeal, scented with six drops of oil of anniseed, and half an ounce of carbonate of barytes (to be had of any London druggist), previously pounded very fine in a mortar, and sifted through fine muslin or cambric; mix this intimately with the scented oatmeal, and lay the mixture upon the tile or slate as before, and allow the rats to come and eat of it without interruption. A few hours after eating thereof you will frequently see some of them running about as if drunk or paralytic, but eventually they all generally retire to their haunts and die. Burn what is left, and renew the mixture every forty-eight hours. Keep the place close that the rats may not be disturbed, nor any other animal touch the mixture, which although not very dangerous yet might in some cases prove fatal. The carbonate of barytes is a ponderous spar, and may be procured in large quantities at the lead mines.

CHINESE FETE.

[Extract from the Narrative of Lord Macartney, inserted in Mr. Barrow's Travels in China.]

ON the morning of the 18th of September we again went to the court, in consequence of an invitation from the emperor, to see the Chinese comedy and other entertainments given on occasion of his birth-day. The comedy began at eight o'clock, and lasted till noon. The emperor was seated on a throne opposite the stage, which projected a good deal into the pit. The boxes were on each side, without seats or divisions. The women were placed above, behind the lattices, so that they might enjoy the amusement of the theatre without being observed.

Soon after we came in, the emperor sent for Sir George Staunton and me to attend him, and told us, with great condescension of manner, that we ought to be surprised to see a man of his age at the theatre; for that he seldom came there, except upon a very particular occasion like the present; for that, considering the extent of his dominions, and the number of his subjects, he could spare but very little time for such amusements. I endeavoured, in the turn of my answer, to lead him towards the subject of my embassy, but he seemed not disposed to enter into it further than by delivering me a little box of old Japan, in the bottom of which were some pieces of agate, and other stones much valued by the Chinese and Tartars, and at the top a small book, written and painted by his own hand, which he desired me to present to the king my master, as a token of his friendship; saying, that the old box had been 800 years in his family. He at the same time gave me a book for myself, also written and painted by him, together with several purses of areca nut. He likewise gave a purse of the same sort to Sir George Staunton, and sent some presents to the other gentlemen of the embassy. After this, several pieces of silk or porcelaine, but seemingly of no great value, were distributed among the Tartar princes and chief courtiers, who appeared to receive them with every possible demonstration of humility and gratitude.

The theatrical entertainments consisted of great variety, both tragical and comical; several distinct pieces were acted in succession, though without any apparent connection with one another. Some of them were historical, and others of pure fancy, partly in recitativo, partly in singing, and partly in plain speaking, without any accompaniment of instrumental music, but abounding in battles, murders, and most of the usual incidents of the drama. Last of all was the grand pantomime, which, from the approbation it met with, is, I presume, considered as a first rate effort of invention and ingenuity. It seemed to me, as far as I could comprehend it, to represent the marriage of the ocean and the earth. The latter exhibited her various riches and productions, dragons, and elephants, and tigers, and eagles, and ostriches, oaks and pines, and other trees of different kinds. The ocean was not behind hand, but poured forth on the stage the wealth of his dominions, under the figures of whales, and dolphins, porpusses and leviathans, and other sea-monsters, besides ships, rocks, shells, spunges, and corals; all performed by concealed actors, who were quite perfect in their parts, and performed their characters to admiration. These two marine and land regiments, after separately parading in a circular procession, for a considerable time, at last joined together, and forming one body, came to the front of the stage, when, after a few evolutions, they opened to the right

right and left, to give room to the whale, who seemed to be the commanding officer, to waddle forward, and who, taking his station exactly opposite the emperor's box, spouted out into the pit several tons of water, which quickly disappeared through the perforated floor. This ejaculation was received with the highest applause, and two or three of the great men at my elbow desired me to take particular notice of it, repeating at the same time, 'Hao, kung hao!'—charming, delightful!"

The fireworks exhibited at this fete are afterwards thus described:—"One piece of machinery I greatly admired; a green chest of five feet square was hoisted from the ground by a pulley, up to the height of fifty or sixty feet; the bottom was so constructed as then suddenly to fall out, and make way for twenty or thirty string-lanterns, inclosed in the box, to descend from it, unfolding themselves from one another by degrees, so as at last to form a collection of at least 300, each having a light of a beautifully coloured flame burning brightly within it. This devolution and developement of lanterns (which appeared to me to be composed of gauze and paper) were several times repeated, and every time exhibited a difference of colour and figure. On each side was a correspondence of smaller boxes, which opened in like manner as the others, and let down an immense network of fire, with divisions and copartments of various forms and dimensions, round and square, hexagons, octagons and lozenges, which show like burnished copper, and flashed like prismatic lightning, with every impulse of the wind. The diversity of colours, indeed, with which the Chinese have the secret of cloathing fire, seems one of the chief merits of their pyrotechny.

"The whole concluded with a volcano, or general explosion and discharge of suns and stars, squibs, bouncers, crackers, rockets, and grenadoes, which involved the gardens for above an hour after in a cloud of intolerable smoke. Whilst these entertainments were going forward, the emperor sent to us a variety of refreshments, all which, as coming from him, the etiquette of the court required us to partake of, although we had dined but a short time before."

Comparative Value of Priests and Bishops in the Ages of Barbarism.

AMONG the barbarians who destroyed the Roman empire, the laws regulated the fines which criminals were to pay by way of expiation or atonement for every misdeed. According to this whimsical scale of offences and penalties, it cost a man two hundred pence for killing a priest, and four hundred for killing a bishop; so that a bishop was precisely worth two priests.

An ANECDOTE.

TAVERNIER says, that an Armenian, married ten years, had never seen his wife, nor once heard her speak; for, in repairing to bed with her husband, she kept on her veil 'till the light was extinguished, and always arose before the break of day; she, moreover, never ate in his presence.

COMMON NETTLE.

THE nettle, Mr. Tweedy observes, may be applied to various uses. Being a perennial that accommodates itself to all kinds of soil, it consequently requires little labour or expence in it's field cultivation, so that the cottager and his family may be materially benefitted at the smallest expence, labour only being required.

Dressed and manufactured like flax, the nettle produces a good kind of cloth. In Shropshire, the ploughmen and waggoners' frocks are made of nettle cloth, which is both durable and cheap. This is sold at Shrewsbury, and in many parts of the county of Salop; small patches of nettles are grown near the cottages for the purpose of this manufacture. This plant dried is acceptable to sheep and oxen. In France nettle cloth is of a lasting fabric, and paper of a good quality may be manufactured from it.

In Russia, it has been discovered, that nettle juice is capable of dying woollens of a beautiful green, and it's roots give a yellow colour to yarn.

In the spring, every one knows, that nettle tops are used in pottage, being considered as a purifier of the blood. In Scotland they make good rennet of a strong decoction of this plant, putting about two pounds of salt to three pints of the decoction, after which they bottle it. A common spoonful of this mixture will coagulate a large bowl of milk, in a manner, perhaps, more wholesome than is performed by animal rennet, which is often known to give a disagreeable taste to the curd of cheese.

A QUESTION, *by T. S. G. of Penzance.*

SUPPOSE a solid piece of marble, 120 feet in length, and 12 feet square at the base, in form of a pyramid, were immersed into the sea. It is required to determine, without the assistance of algebra, what weight is necessary to raise the point of this body to the surface of the water.

Note. Admitting a cubic inch of salt water to weigh = to .594894 oz. and that of marble, 1.568859 oz.

Answer, by J. Woodman, Jun. of North Curry, to J. T. Symons's Rebus, inserted October 6.

KIND Sir, in answer to your tale,
'Tis DORCHESTER that's fam'd for ale.

† Similar answers have been received from W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. Ryan, and B. Belcher, of Stonehouse; J. S. and H Stoneman, of Exeter; W. D. of Bristol; R. Gidley, and P. Codd, of Dean Prior; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; J. Whitnell, of Ashcott; Sophia, of Modbury; A. Dyer, of Manadon-house, near Plymouth; Adrianus; T. Gill, an officer of excise near Wells; J. Whittle, of Upway; Thomas Coumbe, of St. German's; J. Salter, of Broadhembury; and W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey.

Answer, by W. D. of Bristol, to Vigil's Charade, inserted October 6.

SET the LARUM, it will strike
At any hour or time you like.

†‡† We have received the like answer from Henry Stoneman, and J. S. of Exeter; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; Sophia, of Modbury; B. Belcher, and J. Ryan, of East-Stonehouse; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; Adrianus; H. Ellis, R. Loosemore, and J. Tucker, jun. of Tiverton; R Gidley, and P. Codd, of Dean Prior; J. Whitnell, of Ashcott; J. Fairweather, of Batson; and J. S. Coles, of Alphington.

A REBUS, *by Ann Dyer, of Manadon-House, near Plymouth.*

AN interjection call to mind;
And next a foreign river find;
Thirdly, a vowel, gents. select;
An English title then detect:
The initials found, and join'd with care,
A precious stone they will declare.

A CHARADE, *by J. A——g.*

STAY, mark my first, ere you proceed,
A very playsome quadrupede,
But fierce in quest of prey;
Who knows my second's rich contents,
Its glittering treasure is immense,
Suffice it now to say:
To botanists I must appeal,
To draw aside the slender veil.

☞ *The essay on air and the atmosphere, which has been transmitted by W. C. of Bristol, and which is announced as the first of a series of occasional essays, is thought improper for insertion, the subjects not being suited to the plan of the Entertainer. The copy will be returned if the author wishes it.*

† Edwin is requested to send another copy of the verses addressed to a lady who had found his glove, as the former copy was destroyed in consequence of his desiring that it might not appear.*

‡‡‡ *The stanzas on autumn, inserted November 10, are merely a copy of "The Leaf" of the late Bishop Horne.*

‡‡‡ *A number of communications, particularly charades, rebuses, &c. are unavoidably rejected, as either too trifling, or too inaccurate.*

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

ABSENCE.

WHERE can the lovely wand'rer be?
Where shall I find my charming fair?
Her absence—Oh 'tis misery!
Her absence—'tis too much to bear!

How gay the woodlands all appear!
How animated is the scene!
How ev'ry sense the zephyrs cheer,
And make more lively every green!

To me, ah! what avails this sight,
That so inspires with pure delight,
And has such pow'r the passions to allay!
It other breasts may kindly cheer,
But dead to me it's charms appear,
When my enchanting friend is far away!

Trent. B. A.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The TRUMPETER TAKEN PRISONER:

A FABLE *from* ESOP.

A Luckless trumpeter, in battle taken,
Anxious, if possible, to save his bacon;
As high th' uplifted sword, with slaughter red,
Prepar'd to *ease him* of his cares and *head*,
"Spare (he exclaim'd), a harmless captive spare,
"Behold, defenceless, no dread arms I bear—
"This trumpet only." "Hold (the foe reply'd),
"That hateful trumpet swells the crimson tide;
"Its horrid notes the warrior's rage excite,
"And stimulate the fury of the fight."
In vain the *man of music* urg'd his plea—
The *man of war* perform'd the fates' decree.

What tho' no arms sedition's minions wield,
Their venom'd tongues drive thousands to the field;
With plausive speech they give their treachery birth,
'Till the spark kindles, and the flames burst forth.
And thus full many a wretch in private life,
Foments, and glories in domestic strife:
The tongue of scandal, skill'd in impious art,
Subtly conveys it's poison to the heart.
In friendly guise the faithless hag is drest,
But hides a deadly viper in his breast.
Too oft, alas! some wretch like this destroys,
Friendship's calm bliss, and love's ecstatic joys;
Whelms hope and peace in doubt's uncertain night,
And blasts the infant-blossoms of delight.

Village-hill. EDWIN.

TO MY ARM-CHAIR.

THOU lov'd companion of my lonely hours,
When fortune frown'd, and friends were far away,
Oft have I blest thee for thy soothing powers,
And fondly courted thy narcotic sway.

Lull'd in thine arms, I taste a pleasing calm,
With eye-lids clos'd, but thoughts that ever wake,
O'er my wrapt senses steals an opiate balm,
And my rack'd head almost forgets to ache.

To brighter scenes excursive fancy flies,
The future smiles in gayer garb array'd,
Visions of sweet domestic joys arise,
As peeps the parsonage from the sheltering shade.

The laugh, the jest, the fleeting hours beguile,
While heavenly music's softening charms combine,
With friends who bring good humour's ready smile,
And hearts that beat in unison with mine.

Not with one wish imagination burns,
O'er proud ambition's slippery paths to roam,
True as the needle to one point she turns—
The point comprising all I cherish—home.

No drowsy dullness o'er the powers of mind
Thy soothing charms, my honour'd chair, diffuse;
Oft in thy bosom, by my fire reclin'd,
I weave the verse, and woo the playful muse.

Borne on her wing, 'mid fairy climes I go,
Tho' sad around me moans the wint'ry gale;
Crop fancy's roses 'mid December's snow,
And balmy spring's ambrosial breeze inhale.

If such the calm, when blest with thee, I share—
If such the joys thy gentle influence showers—
Can the proud despot's tottering throne compare
With thee, companion of my lonely hours?

No: o'er his head tho' Parian columns rise,
And lends the cot its humble roof to me;
He, in his throne, 'mid torturing anguish sighs—
I smile serene, and dream of bliss in thee.

CASIMIR.

ADDRESS *to* MARY.

THY smiles can boast the magic heart
To rivet all my thoughts in thee,
Thine eyes can captivate my heart
Beyond my pow'r to set it free.
And yet, so gentle is thy pow'r,
I scarcely feel the chain I wear;
And thus the dew which bends the flow'r,
But makes its blossoms seem more fair.
Thy loveliness inspires the lay,
Thy beauties make my pulse beat high,
Thy charms upon my fancy play,
With love, with hope, with fear I sigh.
Oh! could I call thee all my own,
The struggling sigh should rise in vain;
An honest heart should be thy throne,
Where love and you should only reign.